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public, the style in which the comedies are written, their relation to the Greek originals, and the esteem in which Plautus was held by his countrymen of his own and of a later time. A large part of the introduction is devoted to syntax, as was to be expected, since for many reasons that may be regarded as the most attractive and the most productive field of Plautine study. The prominent characteristics of colloquial Latin are enumerated in such a manner as to make one wish that this topic might have received further consideration. The prosody of the plays is explained concisely and fully. In short, the introduction seems to lack no important feature, unless some may miss a general treatment of the unclassical forms used by Plautus.

The text is that of Goetz and Schoell. Some of the most mutilated passages appear as they are found in the MSS.; but, in general, conjectural readings are given to make sense and correct meter. Of the appropriateness of these restorations each one is entitled to his own opinion. It can hardly be questioned, however, that it is better for the average student to have a text *probabiliter restitutus* than to be obliged to gaze helplessly at daggers and stars.

The notes are placed at the bottom of the page. The passages for annotation are judiciously selected, and the notes are worded with extreme care; they also contain surprising richness and variety of material. The conciseness seen throughout the book makes one think that the editor must have felt hampered by limitations of space; at least it may be said that there are a few passages where the ordinary student who has read only Cicero, Livy, and Horace would appreciate more assistance than the notes afford him.

A very few misprints, such as buanont for abnuont (Capt. 481), have undoubtedly been already noticed and corrected.

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*Elementary Botany.* By GEORGE FRANCIS ADKINSON, PH.B., Professor of Botany in Cornell University. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 444 pp.

THIS is another book which heralds the coming of a new dispensation in the teaching of botany. Professor Atkinson believes in studying how plants live, and therefore structure falls into its proper secondary place. Every successful teacher has his own way of putting

things, and there is no rule of thumb for presenting botany to beginners.

The physiology of plants is first represented, in 92 pages, the very first contact being with protoplasm. Protoplasm is certainly a biological beginning, but it has always been a question whether it is a pedagogical beginning.

The second part (107 pp.) is devoted to morphology, a series of well selected plants being used to represent the plant kingdom. In this part lessons on prominent families of seed plants are included; which is certainly too often disregarded in books of this kind.

The third part (144 pp.) is concerned with ecological subjects, and is especially deserving of notice, inasmuch as it is the fullest presentation of ecological material yet offered to the schools. However, it is not so much an orderly outline of ecology, as a random presentation of ecological topics.

The book is to be commended, not merely for its general spirit, but also for its wealth of illustrations, its short paragraphs with distinct headings, and its ecological material. Its weak points are its lack of organization, and its often careless statements.

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*Plato's Apology of Socrates, and Crito, and a part of the Phaedo.*

With Introduction, Commentary, and Critical Appendix.

By THE REV. C. L. KITCHEL, M.A. New York: American Book Company.

THE principal aim of this book is, in the words of the preface, "to present the person of Socrates so clearly that the student may not fail to see what manner of man he was, and why his influence was so decided upon his own time and upon succeeding ages." For this purpose the introduction of 76 pages is well conceived and well expressed. The first four pages give a brief sketch of Plato, and the bulk of the remaining pages is devoted to an account of Socrates' character, his work, and its results and influence. Were the purpose of the book other than as stated above it might be objected that the editor has not given sufficient prominence to Plato, nor called attention sharply enough to the fact that while, as he states, Socrates is the chief speaker in nearly all that Plato wrote, the philosophy is usually Plato's own.